WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer network for providing services comprising:

a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services; and

a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements, configured to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

wherein said services are controlled by email messages routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.

2. The network of claim 1, wherein:

each of said plurality of computing elements comprises a service handler; and

said service handler on a computing element extracts an access function from an incoming email message and complies with said extracted access function.

3. The network of claim 2, wherein said redirector comprises a mail router for routing email messages.

4. The network of claim 1, wherein:

said redirector comprises a service handler for extracting an access function from incoming email messages; and

said service handler complies with said extracted access function by transmitting commands or data to said plurality of computing elements supporting said services.

5. The network of claim 4, wherein said data is a service.

6. The network of claim 4, wherein said data is a specified location where a service can be accessed.

7. The network of claim 1, further comprising a mail server for receiving email and transferring email containing access functions to said redirector as proxy for said plurality of computing elements.

8. The network of claim 1, further comprising a firewall through which said email messages are received, said redirector being protected within said firewall.

9. The network of claim 8, further comprising a web client within said firewall communicating with said redirector to obtain access to said services.

10. The network of claim 9, wherein said redirector generates web pages related to said services for said web client.

11. A method of providing services with a computer network that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise computing resources for supporting one or more services, and a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements; said method comprising:

receiving an e-mail message addressed to one of said computing elements for controlling a service; and

routing at least some of said e-mail message to a corresponding computing element with said redirector that is configured to function as an e-mail proxy for said computing elements.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

routing an email message to a computing element with said redirector;

extracting an access function from that email message with a service handler on that computing element; and

complying with said extracted access function.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising

extracting an access function from incoming email messages with a service handler on said redirector; and

complying with said extracted access function by transmitting commands or data from said email message to one of said plurality of computing elements supporting said services.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said step of extracting an access function further comprises extracting a service from said e-mail, and said step of complying with said extracted access function further comprises loading the extracted service to one of said computing elements with available computing resources.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said data is a specified location from which a service is to be obtained, said method further comprising obtaining said service from said specified location.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

receiving email with a mail server; and

transferring email containing an access function to said redirector as proxy for said plurality of computing elements.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising protecting said mail server and redirector with a firewall through which said email messages are received.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising accessing said services with a web client within said firewall that communicates with said redirector.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising generating web pages for said web client with said redirector, said web pages being related to said services.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising generating web pages for a web client with said redirector, said web pages being related to said services.

21. The method of claim 11, further comprising sending a response email message following compliance with said extracted access function.

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